

Town of Frederick Board of Trustees



Eric Doering, Mayor

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AM 2010-077

TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SILVER BIRCH BLVD NORTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF SH52 & WCR 11

Agenda Date: Town Board Meeting - August 24, 2010

Attachments:

- a. CDOT Contract for PROJECT STA 052A-035, (17703)
- b. Resolution No. 10-R- _____

Fiscal Note: The Town's maximum cost of \$30,000.00 is included in the 2010 Budget
under the Street & Alley Fund - Street Construction

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Administrative Services Director

Submitted by:

Richard Leffler, P.E.
Town Engineer

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Approved for Presentation:

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Town Administrator

AV Use Anticipated

Projector _____ Laptop _____

Certification of Board Approval:

Town Clerk

Date

Summary Statement:

The attached Contract with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) would have the Town of Frederick pay CDOT up to a maximum of \$30,000.00 for the construction of improvements to Silver Birch Blvd that are beyond the limits of the SH52 & WCR 11 intersection improvements that will be funded by CDOT.

Detail of Issue/Request:

Engineering Staff worked with CDOT and DRCOG to procure FASTER Funding from the State of Colorado for the design and construction of improvements to the intersection of SH52 & WCR11. This resulted in \$300,000 for the project design in 2010 and up to \$2.5 million for the construction phase in 2011. The initial project scope proposed by CDOT would have constructed left turn lanes on SH52 at the WCR11 intersection, with construction slated for 2012. At the recommendation of Staff during preliminary design meetings, CDOT agreed to add a traffic signal and to include a dedicated left turn and a dedicated right turn lane for southbound Silver Birch traffic. With the support of the CDOT Project Manager, Engineering Staff was successful in getting the construction schedule moved ahead a year and the project is scheduled to go to bid in October 2010 with construction to be completed by about July 2011. The parts of the project that impact the Lower Boulder Ditch located just west of this intersection must be completed by April 1, 2011.

As agreed upon in the preliminary design meetings, construction plans prepared by CDOT for the intersection included the addition of dedicated left and right turns for southbound Silver Birch traffic, but the project limits were forced to stay substantially within existing CDOT right-of-way. This resulted in essentially no left turn storage for any southbound vehicle larger than a standard automobile and effectively closed the right turn lane when more than one southbound small vehicle stopped at a red light. Engineering Staff proposed an alternate design that included additional storage length for the left turn and straight through lanes so several southbound school busses or trucks could wait at a red light without blocking the left turn lane or the straight through lane and still allow free right turns to be made. The alternate design also includes more gradual lane tapers that will be more comfortable and efficient in moving traffic through the intersection. This will result in a substantially higher capacity intersection and better level of service. Since CDOT is constrained in the amount of FASTER funds that can be spent on anything other than strictly safety improvements, Engineering Staff agreed, pending approval by the Frederick Town Board, that a portion of the additional construction costs resulting from the alternate design be paid for by the Town of Frederick and be constructed along with the remainder of the intersection project. Constructing the additional improvements proposed by the Town as part of a much larger project will result in lower unit costs for the earthwork and asphalt, while essentially eliminating many costs related to project start-up and similar administrative/overhead types of expenses. It is Staff's opinion that spending up to \$30,000.00 for these intersection enhancements is a wise investment that will extend the useful life of the current construction project. It will better serve the increased traffic that will come with the completion of the new Frederick High School and the hospital improvements planned for this area.

Legal/Political Considerations:

All proposed construction is to occur within existing CDOT or Town of Frederick rights-of-way. The attached Contract has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and found to be acceptable in form.

The Town frequently receives inquiries from concerned citizens regarding the timeline for improving the subject intersection. Through the use of grant funds the Town can now coordinate the improvements with a current CDOT project, rather than waiting until a later time. The Contract with CDOT will cap the Town's commitment at the amount of the grant with a slight margin, which will likely result in a cost-savings to residents and the public coffers.

Alternatives/Options:

The Town Board could reject the attached contract and construct the additional intersection improvements, beyond those included in the original CDOT design, at some later date. This would result in an intersection that is an improvement over the existing stop sign controlled intersection but one that would not efficiently handle existing southbound Silver Birch Blvd traffic, not to mention the increased traffic that will come with the completion of the new Frederick High School and the planned hospital improvements to the northwest of this intersection. Traffic movements for vehicles eastbound or westbound on SH52 would be greatly improved but significant delays would be expected for southbound Silver Birch Blvd traffic. It is Staff's opinion that this is an excellent opportunity to make a substantial improvement in the movement of Frederick traffic at a minimal expense compared to what is being invested by CDOT in this intersection.

Financial Considerations:

There are sufficient funds budgeted for 2010 in the Street & Alley Fund to cover the \$30,000.00 cost that is estimated for Frederick's share of the proposed intersection improvements.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the attached Resolution No. 10-R- _____ that authorizes the Mayor and the Town Clerk to execute the attached CDOT Contract for PROJECT STA 052A-035, (17703).